

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1, 15-18, 20-24, and 26 have been amended herein. The subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1. The subject matter of claim 25 has been incorporated into claim 15. Claims 16-18, 20-24, and 26 have been amended to improve antecedent basis. Claims 5 and 25 have been cancelled. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lid comprising:
a radially extending body;
wherein the lid is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a container having a
selected size and shape to substantially close an opening thereof;
at least one stabilizing feature positioned to lie radially beyond the opening of the container, and
sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a sleeve structure having a selected
size and shape which is associated and assembled concentrically with another container
having a selected size and shape, upon the another container being positioned generally
longitudinally above the lid.

2. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein the lid is configured to engage at least a portion
of a rolled rim of the container formed on an upper longitudinal end thereof and defining the
opening thereof.

3. (Original) The lid of claim 2, further comprising at least one aperture in the radially
extending body sized and configured to allow liquid to pass therethrough.

4. (Original) The lid of claim 2, wherein the lid comprises a downwardly oriented arcuate recess for engaging at least a portion of the rolled rim of the container.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The lid of claim 2, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to the rolled rim of the container.

7. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

8. (Original) The lid of claim 7, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

9. (Original) The lid of claim 7, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

10. (Original) The lid of claim 7, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of the rolled rim of the sleeve structure.

11. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the lid.

12. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is configured to be removed from the lid.

13. (Original) The lid of claim 1, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

14. (Original) The lid of claim 13, wherein:
the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and
each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

15. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:
a lower wall;
a side wall extending from the lower wall and forming an opening; and
two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features, at least one each stabilizing feature comprising an inwardly oriented radial protrusion sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a sleeve structure associated and assembled with another container positioned longitudinally above the container.

16. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein:
~~the at least one each~~ stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

17. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein ~~the at least one each~~ stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond the opening of the container.

18. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein:
the container further comprises a rolled rim formed on an upper longitudinal end thereof; and
~~the at least one each~~ stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to the rolled rim of the container.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein:
~~the at least one~~each stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

21. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein ~~the at least one~~each stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

22. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 21, wherein:
~~the at least one~~each stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

23. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein ~~the at least one~~each stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the container.

24. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 15, wherein ~~the at least one~~each stabilizing feature is configured to be removed from the container.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The container of ~~claim 25,~~claim 15, wherein:
the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and
each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure.

27. (Previously presented) A sleeve structure, comprising:
a side wall sized and configured to encompass at least a portion of a first container having a selected size and shape and to form a space between the first container assembled therewith and the side wall of the sleeve structure;

at least one stabilizing feature sized and configured to bias against and engage at least a portion of another, like sleeve structure associated and assembled with a second container having a selected size and shape, following the second container being positioned generally longitudinally above the first container, with a lid positioned therebetween.

28. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the side wall comprises a substantially flat sheet that is constrained to assume a frustoconical shape.

29. (Previously presented) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond an opening of the first container.

30. (Previously presented) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein:
the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to a rolled rim of the first container.

31. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the another sleeve structure.

32. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

33. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 32, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the another sleeve structure.

34. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

35. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of the rolled rim of the another sleeve structure.

36. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the sleeve structure.

37. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is configured to be removed from the sleeve structure.

38. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 27, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

39. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 38, wherein:
the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and
each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a
rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the another sleeve structure.

40. (Previously presented) A sleeve structure, comprising:
a side wall sized and configured to encompass at least a portion of a container having a selected
size and shape and to form a space between the container assembled therewith and the
side wall of the sleeve structure;
wherein the upper longitudinal end of the sleeve structure includes two or more circumferentially
separated longitudinally extending sections, the two or more sections configured to
engage and support the container;
wherein at least a portion of the sleeve structure is sized and positioned to form a space between
the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially
encompass; and

wherein the two or more sections are configured to bend radially inward so that upper longitudinal ends thereof engage a rolled rim formed on an upper longitudinal end of the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

41. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 40, further comprising tabs formed in the side wall of the sleeve structure configured to be bendable in relation to the side wall.

42. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the side wall comprises a substantially flat sheet that is constrained to assume a frustoconical shape.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein the two or more sections are configured to bend radially inwardly and into an interior of the sleeve structure, so as to form a radially outwardly tapered region, in relation to an upward longitudinal direction, the region sized, positioned, and configured to engage and support a side wall of the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

45. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 40, wherein at least a portion of the sleeve structure longitudinally below the two or more circumferentially separated sections is frustoconical.

46-47 (Cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) A sleeve structure, comprising:
a side wall sized and configured to encompass at least a portion of a container to form a space
between the container assembled therewith and the side wall of the sleeve structure;
wherein the side wall comprises at least two frustoconical regions;
wherein at least a portion of the sleeve structure is sized and positioned to form a space between
the side wall and the container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at
least partially encompass; and
wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit complementary tapers.

49. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 48, wherein at least two of the at least two
frustoconical regions exhibit opposing tapers.

50. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 49, wherein a first frustoconical region of
the at least two frustoconical regions is disposed within a second frustoconical region of the at
least two frustoconical regions and exhibits a generally complementary taper with respect to the
container which the sleeve structure is sized and configured to at least partially encompass.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 48, further comprising at least one generally
cylindrical region.

53. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 48, wherein an upper longitudinal end of the
sleeve structure includes two or more circumferentially separated longitudinally extending
sections.

54. (Original) A container assembly, comprising:
a lower container comprising a side wall and a radially inwardly extending lower wall, an upper longitudinal end of the side wall forming an opening;
an upper container comprising a side wall and a radially inwardly extending lower wall, an upper longitudinal end of the side wall of the upper container forming an opening;
wherein the upper container is disposed longitudinally above and generally centered in relationship to the lower container;
a sleeve structure disposed about at least a portion of the side wall of the lower container, the sleeve structure having a lower outer radial extent that exceeds a radial extent of the lower longitudinal end of the lower container and forming a space between the sleeve structure and the lower container;
a sleeve structure disposed about at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container, the sleeve structure of the upper container having a lower outer radial extent that exceeds a radial extent of the lower longitudinal end of the upper container and forming a space between the sleeve structure of the upper container and the upper container;
a lid, positioned proximate the opening of the lower container and assembled thereto; and
at least one stabilizing feature disposed on at least one of the lower container, the lid, and the sleeve structure of the lower container, the at least one stabilizing feature sized and configured to matingly engage the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

55. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie radially beyond the opening of the lower container.

56. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein:
the lower container further comprises a rolled rim formed on the upper longitudinal end thereof;
and
the at least one stabilizing feature is positioned to lie generally proximate to the rolled rim of the lower container.

57. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein:
the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on the lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

58. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an inwardly oriented radial protrusion.

59. (Original) The container assembly of claim 58, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of the rolled rim of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

60. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises an upwardly oriented arcuate recess.

61. (Original) The container assembly of claim 60, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is sized and configured to conformably engage at least a portion of a rolled rim of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

62. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the lower container.

63. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the lid.

64. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature is integrally formed with the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the lower container.

65. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein the at least one stabilizing feature comprises two or more circumferentially separated stabilizing features.

66. (Original) The container assembly of claim 65, wherein:
the two or more stabilizing features each comprise an upwardly oriented arcuate recess; and
each upwardly oriented arcuate recess is sized and configured to engage at least a portion of a rolled rim formed on a lower longitudinal end of the sleeve structure disposed about the at least a portion of the side wall of the upper container.

67. (Original) The container assembly of claim 54, wherein each of the sleeve structures comprise at least two frustoconical regions.

68. (Original) The container assembly of claim 67, wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit opposing tapers.

69. (Original) The container assembly of claim 68, wherein a first frustoconical region of the at least two frustoconical regions is disposed within the second frustoconical region of the at least two frustoconical regions and exhibits a generally complementary taper with respect to the container disposed therein.

70. (Original) The container assembly of claim 67, wherein at least two of the at least two frustoconical regions exhibit complementary tapers.

71. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 68, further comprising at least one generally cylindrical region.

72. (Original) The sleeve structure of claim 68, wherein an upper longitudinal end of each of the sleeve structures includes two or more circumferentially separated longitudinally extending sections.

73. (Original) A structure for retaining a sleeve structure disposed about at least a portion of a container so as to form a space therebetween comprising:
a base;
a raised portion extending from a portion of the base;
wherein the raised portion comprises a side wall defining a generally U-shaped recess;
a lower groove formed in the side wall of the generally U-shaped recess, forming an overhanging lip thereabove;
wherein the generally U-shaped recess, the lower groove, and the overhanging lip are each sized and configured so as to cooperatively preferentially retain a lower end of the sleeve structure disposed therein.

74. (Original) The structure of claim 73, further comprising:
a movable button, the button sized and configured to retain the sleeve structure disposed within the recess.

75. (Original) The structure of claim 73, wherein the structure comprises one of a container holder, a tray, a vehicle container holder, a cardboard food and beverage holder, or an adapter.